

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
MISSOULA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOEY LEE FORWARD,

Defendant.

CR 24-55-M-DLC

ORDER

Before the Court is United States Magistrate Judge Kathleen L. DeSoto's Findings & Recommendation Concerning Plea. (Doc. 45.) Because neither party objected, they are not entitled to *de novo* review. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *United States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003). Therefore, the Court reviews the Findings and Recommendation for clear error. *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Commodore Bus. Mach., Inc.*, 656 F.2d 1309, 1313 (9th Cir. 1981). Clear error exists if the Court is left with a “definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed.” *United States v. Syrax*, 235 F.3d 422, 427 (9th Cir. 2000).

Joey Lee Forward is charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute controlled substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Count 1), and one count of possession with the intent to distribute

controlled substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Count 2), as set forth in the Indictment. (Doc. 13.) Judge DeSoto recommends that this Court accept Forward's guilty plea as to Count 2 after he appeared before her pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11. The Court finds no clear error in Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation and adopts them in full, including the recommendation to defer acceptance of the Plea Agreement until sentencing when the Court will have reviewed the Plea Agreement and Presentence Investigation Report.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation (Doc. 45) is ADOPTED in full.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Forward's motion to change plea (Doc. 33) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joey Lee Forward is adjudged guilty as charged in Count 2 of the Indictment.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2025.



Dana L. Christensen
United States District Court